

Tower Grove Park Music Stand
(Park Structure Fifteen)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-K

HABS
MO,
96-SALV.
46K-

PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

TOWER GROVE PARK MUSIC STAND
(Park Structure Fifteen)HABS
MO,
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Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The Music Stand lies 500' east and 600' south of the North Gate at Tower Grove and Magnolia Avenues; being just south of the northeast drive, within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.739000.4276580

Present Owner: City of St. Louis. For additional description see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).

Present Use: Concert Stand.

Significance: The structure is a well-preserved example of the picturesque and eclectic design favored by British and American landscape architects in the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1871-1872 (Board Minutes, 1/3/73, p.27).
2. Architect: Eugene L. Greenleaf (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report Book 1868, p.1122, 6/27/1871, payment to "architect Greenleaf for drawing plans for Musick Stand"). For biographical information, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: City of St. Louis. For property description see HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Benjamin Lynds built the structure for \$2515 (Comp. 1868, p. 158, 3/25/72). The metal roof costing \$375 and the ornaments for it costing \$42.96 were supplied by Hull and Cozzens of St. Louis (Comp. 1868, p. 162, 4/11/72). The iron railing was from Shickle, Harrison, and Co., also of St. Louis and cost \$288.54 (Comp. 1868, p. 168, 5/14/72). Cement and pressed brick paving materials were supplied by Evans and Howard, and Theo. W. Sterling (Comp. 1868, pp. 166-170, 5/11-5/20/72). The floor was laid by C. E. Weaver for \$157.75 (Comp. 1868, p. 178, 9/14/72).
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: Park founder, comptroller, and commissioner Henry Shaw was charged \$35 for the design and elaboration of specifications of the "Music House," which was chosen over another design for it in iron, also submitted by Greenleaf (Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers 1/71-6/71, letter from Greenleaf to Shaw, St. Louis 6/27/71).

The ground below was paved in a pattern of brick and stone, still extant below the wooden platform (Schwartz). The railings were originally "brightly gilded" (MacAdam, p.32.)

6. Additions and alterations: In 1877, the raised wooden floor was erected by Thomas Smith for \$40, with lumber costing \$42.65 supplied by Philibert and Johannung (Comp. 75, pp. 78-84, 3/20/77, 5/5/77).

In 1890 the foundation of the music stand was rebuilt (Board Reports, 1/1891, p.360). In 1910 the roof was altered in an attempt to improve accoustics. The domed ceiling was removed, and a new ceiling having its central point lower than the perimeter was substituted (Board Reports, 1/10/1911, p. 11).

Innumerable repairs and replacements of rotted members have occurred over the years, so probably little of the original wooden fabric remains. The structure was restored in 1965. Preservation of the fabric was a priority, second only to making the building structurally sound. A copy of the report by the supervising architects, Schwarz and Van Hoefen of St. Louis is appended.

In 1968, the Flesch Construction Co. replaced eight wooden roof ornaments, the center beam, and the top of the cupola in an effort to straighten the leaning cupola for \$385 (Bandstand restoration file).

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: A small view of ca. 1875 was copied from the Scottish Rite Library (Fuhrman Collection) 3633 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis.
2. Bibliography:
 - a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's Synopsis of Work Done in Park 1868-1872; his Report Books as Comptroller for 1868, 1875, and 1888; Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers for 1867-1889; the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for 1869-1898; and the Bandstand restoration file are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney, and will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript Collection at the John S. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, by the end of the summer of 1974.

b. Secondary sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners, Tower Grove Park.
St. Louis: Nixon Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley and Co.
1883.

Prepared by: Carolun Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The octagonal music stand has a double-tier bulbous roof and elevated platform flooring. Its rich and colorful ornamentation of cast-iron railings, wooden pendants at the cornice line, gently curving arches, and tracery in the spandrels make the structure a visual focal point as well as a social gathering point in the Park.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Octagonal shape, eight bays, each 12'-6" wide; 41'-9" high to top of spire.
2. Foundations: Red granite blocks.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: There are eight pairs of octagonal columns, forming an inner and an outer ring. Each pair is joined in two places along their column shafts by two carved-edged wedges of wood. These are painted brown. The outer ring carries wide, low, gently curved arches, painted white, which have circular motif tracery in their spandrels. There are scrolled brackets under the eaves, and rectangular pendants with circular moldings and bulbous elements at both their ends at all eight corners on the cornice, projecting above and below the cornice and fascia boards, all of which are painted white. The northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest bays have ornamental iron guardrails, 3'-8" high, consisting of flat diagonal members, evenly spaced and intersecting in the center of circular

members. The same design appears on the northeast and southeast iron footbridges. Here the railings are painted black and gold. The remaining four bays are open, with steps leading from the platform to the ground level.

4. Structural system: Wooden framing, Guywires stabilize the north, south, east and west bay spans.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: The standing-seam, sheet metal roof consists of a lower, bell-shaped tier surmounted by an onion dome. Above the dome is a two-step octagonal element, with a pair of thin, 'S'-shaped brackets running between its two levels above the north, south, east, and west bays. An orb with a spire on top of it caps the structure. The roofing material is painted red.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The beveled cornice rests on flat fascia boards.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Open plan, octagonal.
2. Flooring: The elevated floor is reached by two granite steps at the north, south, east, and west bays. The flooring is tongue and groove wood laid in "wagon wheel" pattern, the alternating sections of which are painted gray and red.
3. Ceiling finish: The ceiling is also tongue and groove wood painted gold. Moldings at the section joints radiate from it to the corners.
4. Mechanical equipment: Electric lights have been installed in the ceiling.

- D. Site: The Music Stand is surrounded by a circular macadamized walkway, with walkways radiating out, away from the stand and circle at the north, south, east, and west. Columnar pedestals carrying the busts of composers flank the radiating entrance walks, on the inside of the circular walk. On the outside of it, flanking the west walk are two stone piers capped with balls. The west side of the circular walk also has a grouping of Osage, Asiatic Ginko, and Tulip trees.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
August, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983. -